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No 151

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. Secretary Anderson's annual report is now out.

In his "summing up" he states that his object
has been to choose facts for the report, which would "provide some basis for an
appraisal of what has happened in the war years and also some indication of what
may lie ahead." The Secretary said that agriculture has emerged from the war
with huge new potentials for an economy of abundance. "If it is to use its
potentials efficiently," he affirms, "it must know what they are, how they have
developed, and what scope they need. I hope the data given with regard to farm
technology, farm science, and farm production and distribution will show the
kind of knowledge we require, and will stimulate the quest for more of it. .
There is one clear lesson," the Secretary concluded, "We must abandon the old
defensive economy and make an aggressive coordinated attack on scarcity, so
that the production-capacities of agriculture and of industry can be continuously
and fully employed."

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NAT'L HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK has been set for May 5-12. Observance of such a week, the first of its kind, was recommended by farm women's groups. Theme of the week will be "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World." Extension Service in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico is cooperating with farm women in making plans for observance of the Week. Attention will be focused on the contribution of the nome and family toward world peace and on the progress made in rural family and community living since the home demonstration program was initiated over 30 years ago. A fact sheet contining background information on the program and explaining the plans and purposes of National Home Demonstration Week is being prepared for wide distribution in the Department and for various press, radio, and magazine outlets. Copies will be available in the Office of Information within about a week.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . Feb. 14, the House passed an urgent deficiency appropriation bill which contains funds for REA, Civilian Production Administration, ODT, and OPA; the House Banking and Currency Committee reported the Patman housing bill providing for price control and subsidies. Feb. 18, the Senate passed the independent offices appropriation bill; the House Public Buildings and Grounds Committee reported a bill to grant FWA broad powers regarding government site acquisition, building construction, purchase of buildings, etc. Feb. 19, the House debated the school lunch bill; the President approved a bill to authorize changes in tobacco quotas under the Agriculture Adjustment Act.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL INTEREST. . . . Veterans and farm machinery--336;

USDA modifies cinnamon restrictions333; U. S. sugar crops research brings results--341; Secretary Anderson orders
review of USDA food programs--342; Livestock on farms, Jan. 1--346; World meat
50tput shows sharp drops--348; USDA sales of surplus farm commodities--353;
Pork set aside increased--352; Edible molasses continues under WFO-51 control-356; New United States flour extraction rate still lower than most of world-361; U. S. agriculture mission to Near East planned--374; Science makes livestock production more efficient--371; Peanut stocks and processing--368; and
the following addresses of Department officials:

FARM SAFETY WEEK. . . . Consideration is being given to offering a certificate to farmers who do a good job in eliminating safety hazards on their farms this year. Other plans for the observance of National Farm Safety Week, July 21-27, include the issuance of a fact sheet, a check list which will be matted, a leaflet, and one or two radio transcriptions.

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VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS will be recruited again this year to help on farms.

Their slogan will be "We're needed again!" Educators as well as farm labor people are expected to push this program as they see in farm work valuable experience for boys and girls in any walk of life.

Women will be recruited to help on farms in the general farm labor program since the Women's Land Army has been "immobilized." Women will be particularly helpful in the 1946 adjustment period for farm labor, it is stresged.

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FSA HEALTH CONFERENCE. . . . Health service representatives of the 11 FSA regions will attend a working conference in Washington from February 25 through March 2. This group will discuss with Department people and others interested in better health for rural people, ways and means for meeting health needs of the postwar period. Various USDA speakers and others outstanding in the health field will be heard during the week.

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COTTON ADS. . . . The National Cotton Council has prepared a set of ads on the 7-step cotton program which will be sent to advertisers and advertising agencies interested in cotton and to daily newspapers and farm papers. Mats of the ads can be ordered from the Cotton Council. Proofs of the ads will be sent to State Extension Services so that they can cooperate in obtaining advertising support for the cotton program.

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ACTION IN THE FOOD CRISIS. . . . In line with Secretary Anderson's directive announced February 16 (Press release 342), crop production goals are being reviewed as speedily as possible. The Secretary placed review of production goals at the head of the list in ordering that all USDA food programs be reviewed within two weeks because of the world food situation. Farmers will be informed of any changes in goals as soon as possible so that they may revise their 1946 crop and livestock production plans if necessary.

Secretary Anderson called for consideration of price support programs along with production goals. He asked that procurement programs be re-examined to determine whether they are "sufficiently aggressive to meet or exceed our commitments." The third point in the Secretary's directive is consideration of the need for stockpile programs to take advantage of seasonal peaks in the production of dairy and poultry products, fats and oils, and meats, to provide a year-around balance in the supply of these products. The fourth point is exploring the possibility of purchasing needed foods in other countries to prevent dissipation of supplies and to meet urgent needs.

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4-H CLUB CONTEST. . . . Conserving nature's resources for security and happiness is one of the 10 4-H Club guideposts adopted this year. Supporting this goal is a nation-wide 4-H soil conservation contest recently announced by Extension Service. County, State, and National awards will be made to successful 4-H contestants. A joint Extension Service and SCS letter was sent to all extension soil conservationists last week about the contest, and all State 4-H Club leaders have been asked to promote the program.

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UNO FOOD RESOLUTION. . . . A resolution unanimously adopted last week by the assembly of the United Nations Organization urged conservation of food, increased production, and intensified efforts to obtain more complete statistical information about world-wide crop prospects. The resolution was introduced by Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin of Great Britain on behalf of that country, the United States, China, France, and the Soviet Union.

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SUGGESTION! Tear this radio schedule off and keep it for handy reference.

RADIO - MARCH 2 NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, NBC, 1:00 p.m., EST. Summary of News developments in the USDA, for farmers. Five-minute feature by John Baker, entitled "Department of Agriculture Headlines."

CONSUMER TIME, NBC, 12:15 p.m., EST. "Transportation of Food," dramatized story of how food is transported in this country.

AMERICAN FARMER, ABC, 12:30 p.m., EST. Features USDA weekly report for farmers, entitled "The Business Side of Farming."

COUNTRY JOURNAL, CBS, 9:30 a.m. Chuck Worcester of that station talks to 4-H member James Galbraith of Maryland, on 4-H mobilization.

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